

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

VOL. 72, No. 3

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

DECEMBER 6, 2007

Virginia Beauchamp Celebrates 50 Years at the News Review

by Edith Beauchamp

Many people volunteer in Greenbelt, for many things and often for many years. But rarely is a golden anniversary reached – 50 years by one person – for one organization. This year marks 50 years since Virginia Beauchamp first moved to Greenbelt and first joined the staff of the Greenbelt News Review in 1957 – and she’s still at it every week, coming over on Tuesdays to help edit articles and occasionally cover a story.

Only one other person has served the paper longer continuously, and that’s Elaine Skolnik Nicholson. Beauchamp, now 87, sometimes volunteers to drive Skolnik over to work on Tuesdays also. They’re quite a pair, those two.

Beauchamp will correct you – “It’s only 48 years that I actually worked at the paper,” she says, because in 1963 she moved to Lagos, Nigeria, with her three small children and her husband who worked for the State Department. They returned in 1965, right back to Greenbelt



Virginia Beauchamp

and she resumed volunteering every Wednesday evening at the paper or at home, in charge of proofreading and laying out the columns for the News Review with scissors and tape in the days before modern typesetting software. Because her husband had just been sent to Vietnam – he worked in the war zone for the State Department from 1965

to 1968 – she was functioning as a “single mom.” The News Review staff accommodated her childcare issues by making her home the Wednesday night headquarters for the staff.

Mary Lou Williamson began working for the paper in the 1960s and was called to the witness stand in a lower-court hearing of the infamous lawsuit against the News Review which was eventually settled favorably for the paper by a 9-0 vote of the Supreme Court of the United States. When asked in court where she learned to edit the paper, Williamson replied, “At Virginia Beauchamp’s,” which appeared in the transcript as “at Virginia Beach.”

In that two-year hiatus from the paper while overseas, Beauchamp helped to organize a group of other American parents to found an international school for children in Lagos in 1964, where her children could also

See **BEAUCHAMP**, page 12

Council Okays Bank Site Plan, Sets 2008 Legislative Priorities

by Thomas X. White

As part of a lengthy agenda at the Greenbelt City Council’s first regular meeting following the city election council considered a site plan for a new bank at Capital Office Park and staff proposals for requests to be made through Prince George’s County for Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs). Council also considered what special legislation to benefit the city it should seek from the Maryland General Assembly and the Prince George’s County Council during their next legislative sessions.

Old Line Bank

Council reviewed a proposed site plan for a 2,800 square foot branch bank building on a 0.76-acre parcel at the Capital Office Park. The small teardrop-shaped parcel is located at the intersection of Kenilworth Ave. (Rte. 201) and Ivy Lane. Although construction of Capital Office Park began in 1983, this parcel has remained undeveloped.

When the office park development changed ownership last year, the new owners advised council that the parcel would be considered for a freestanding bank building. The developer of the site is the Old Line Bank, currently located on the first floor level of one of the Capital Office Park buildings on Ivy Lane.

Terri Hruby, assistant planning director for the city, provided information on the proposed site

plan. She advised council that the proposed use is permitted in the zone. Hruby outlined several conditions and amenities to which the developers have agreed – to provide parking, pedestrian and bicycle access and the use of green building techniques. She also noted that the city staff learned the site did have some buffer conditions applicable to the parcel that were part of a set of 1983 covenants associated with development of what was then North Springhill Lake into an office park development.

Hruby noted that the proposed development plan is consistent with those covenants and had been approved by the city Advisory Planning Board (APB).

Council posed questions regarding building security, lighting and signage that were addressed by bank representatives. Councilmember Rodney Roberts suggested that Old Line Bank might consider locating a branch at Roosevelt Center. Mayor Judith Davis, during the discussion of security, noted that the location of the new bank across the street from the Police Department might offer some security. Council voted unanimously to approve the site plan with the conditions recommended by staff and the APB.

Block Grants

Assistant City Manager David Moran outlined city staff recom-

mendations for the program year 34 (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009) of the CDBG program administered by the county. The city’s application to the county is due on December 7.

City staff recommended proposing a project to upgrade street lighting and install emergency call boxes in the Springhill Lake development as its top priority for the new year. Staff envisioned that this project would be phased in over multiple years in order to completely upgrade all of Springhill Lake.

As a second priority, staff recommended submitting a project to provide one-time grants for low-income seniors and disabled adults to modify their homes. Such a program would fund ramps, chair lifts, adaptable equipment, bathroom modifications and widened doorways.

Although the Springhill Lake census tract is the only CDBG-

See **COUNCIL**, page 6

What Goes On

**Sunday, December 9
7 p.m.,** Greenbelt East Tree Lighting, Greenbriar Community Building
**Monday, December 10
8 p.m.,** Regular City Council Meeting, Municipal Building

American Education Week November 11 to 17, 2007

In celebration of American education, these columns will continue to tell the stories of selected teachers from the schools that serve the Greenbelt community. In past weeks Greenbelt Elementary School, St. Hugh’s School, Greenbelt Middle School and Magnolia Elementary School teachers were featured; this week readers will get a glimpse inside Springhill Lake Elementary School.

In coming weeks there will be stories from Eleanor Roosevelt High School to complete our series featuring teachers at each of the local schools serving Greenbelt students.

Local Alumna Johanna Long Is SHL Elementary Teacher

by Stacy Hardy

How cool is it to go to school in Greenbelt, live in Greenbelt and teach in Greenbelt? I’d say it’s heaven on earth and destiny – that which is bound to happen, one’s fate. Eleanor Roosevelt High school alumna, Greenbelt resident and Springhill Lake Elementary School math and science teacher Johanna Long says: “I just love Old Greenbelt; it’s a convenient place to live.” Bred in a household of teachers, Long says she has been exposed to the life of a teacher all of her life. Though she was not pushed either way, after graduation from Eleanor Roosevelt High School in 2000, Long received her bachelor of science degree in elementary education from the University of Maryland in December 2004.

In January 2005 Long began her teaching career at Springhill Lake Elementary as a third grade math/science teacher. Besides math being one of her favorite subjects, and reading too,



Johanna Long

Long loves that she can focus on specific subjects that allow her the freedom to develop first-rate teaching strategies.

Her first day was a little scary because, Long recalls, most students had had several prior

See **LONG**, page 6

Regina Clay Loves Her Work With Special Education Kids

by Stacy Hardy

Passion: the object of a person’s great enthusiasm. While some of us were pondering what we would do on the first day of middle school, Regina Clay recalls at the tender age of 12 having a desire to teach. A special education teacher at Springhill Lake Elementary, Clay was already captivated by her passion.

Before reading “The Circle of Children,” written by Mary MacCracken in 1974 however, Clay admits she was not aware that children with learning disabilities existed – perhaps, she says, “because they were separated from the regular population.” It wasn’t until after this discovery, revealing how teachers worked with such students and how they effected change, that she longed to play an active role.

Finding her goal at the beginning, Clay, a native of Ohio, pursued and received her bachelor of science degree in special education grades 1 to 8 from the



Regina Clay

University of Maryland. “This is what I wanted and I stayed with it,” says Clay.

According to Clay, who has been a special education teacher for the past 22 years, there have been times she has felt the brunt

See **CLAY**, page 6

Letters to the Editor

Nursery School Is PCPI Member

As president of Parent Cooperative Preschools International (PCPI), I would like to comment on your recent article about the Greenbelt Nursery School. PCPI represents more than 50,000 families in cooperative preschools in Canada and the United States. Greenbelt Nursery School is one of our members.

Our mission is to support and encourage parent involvement, parent participation and parent education in early childhood education programs. Greenbelt Nursery School embodies this mission in its program. The parents, their children and the community have benefitted. One of the key attributes of a cooperative school program is parent education. Parents learn both formally and informally. They learn about child development, they learn how to run a business and they develop leadership skills. After graduating from nursery school, these parents often go on to become leaders in their PTAs and other community organizations.

I am pleased to report that Lisa Meyer, the school's director, serves on the PCPI board as our Becky Allen Fund chair. Becky Allen was one of the founders of PCPI and the Maryland Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools. Regrettably, this council has disbanded. However, there still are over 50 cooperative nursery schools in Maryland.

The schools your reporter referred to in her article are the schools that are members of PCPI. We provide many services for our members including networking, publications, insurance, grants, awards and marketing. We are also happy to refer people to cooperative preschools – whether or not they are our members.

Leta Mach,
President, PCPI

Thanks to the Team

On behalf of the Greenbelt Recreation Department, we would like to thank the entire team of city staff, artists, volunteers and participants who helped launch the 2007 Festival of Lights in such high style this past weekend.

The Festival began with the lighting of the city's holiday tree on Friday night, November 30. A large crowd gathered to share in the holiday cheer. Part-time staff greeted our guests with warm smiles and hot chocolate. Revelers enjoyed spirited music from the Suspenders a cappella group



PHOTO BY NICOLE DEWALD

Community Center Artist-in-residence Celestine Ranney-Howes chatting with customers at her booth at the Art and Craft Fair.

from Eleanor Roosevelt High School, directed by Dr. Barbara Baker, and the Greenbelt Concert Band Brass Choir under the direction of Conductor Tom Cherrix. We are grateful to Santa Claus for making time in his busy schedule to light the holiday tree after hitching a ride to the Community Center with his friends from the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department.

On Saturday and Sunday, several generations of Greenbelters crossed paths in the bustling Community Center at the 37th annual Festival of Lights Art and Craft Fair. The fair is the culmination of year-long efforts on behalf of the artists and organizers. We thank the many local artisans and community organizations who shared their wares with us. Participants included Greenbelt Pottery, the Greenbelt Glass Guild, the Greenbelt Cooperative Nursery School, Greenbelt CARES and the Greenbelt Museum and Friends, among many others. Sustaining us all throughout the weekend was the Festival of Lights Café hosted by the Greenbelt Arts Center. Head Chef Lou Parker developed the menu and ran the kitchen. Overall Fair coordination was provided by Arts Assistant Barbara Davis.

Fairgoers enjoyed hands-on art projects in the Community Center studios on both days of the Art and Craft Fair, coordinated by Monica Mische. On Saturday artist-in-residence Kathy Karlson led a workshop in making hand-decorated wrapping paper, origami balloons, snowflakes and Santa Lucia crowns. On Sunday about 150 Greenbelters made and decorated their own evergreen wreaths.

Our thanks go to the Alexandria Klezmer for their performance

on Sunday afternoon and to all the dancers who graced the floor.

Thanks also to the artist instructors who demonstrated their crafts: Gina Denn, Mary Gawlik, Richard McMullin and Mea Rhee.

Thanks to all the many recreation departments staff for their musical efforts.

The Department of Public Works provided instrumental event support. Staff members hung banners, erected staging and lighting, coordinated electrical service, decorated the holiday tree.

Most of all, we thank our many neighbors and friends for coming together in the spirit of the season.

Nicole DeWald,
Arts Supervisor
Andrew Phelan,
Recreation Coordinator

THANKS

Thank you to all of the wonderful people at the Greenbelt Animal Control, especially Jessica Gouff and Susie Hall for the loving care you are giving my 4-lb. miniature pincer dog Gracie, who has been my constant companion for the past seven years.

October 13 while I was asleep, a fire broke out in my apartment building. Gracie, who has had training as a service dog for multiple sclerosis patients, woke me, pushed the emergency button on my phone and I was able to report the fire to the authorities. We were rescued but my apartment, most of my belongings and wheelchair were destroyed or damaged in the fire.

Gracie and I were taken to Washington Adventist Hospital. One of the nurses, a Greenbelt resident, took Gracie and arranged kennel care for the duration of

Grin Belt



AGNES CONATY ©2007

"If you pick the right acorn
you could have me as your Secret Santa."

my hospital stay. All of Gracie's care is now provided by Greenbelt Animal Control.

Gracie needed shots, grooming and veterinary care after the fire. Greenbelt Animal Control provided these services. Jessica even takes Gracie nights, weekends and holidays to stay in her home with her family. I am so grateful for all the help I have received from the Greenbelt community and Jessica and Susie in particular.

Hopefully I will be able to leave the nursing home where I am currently living. It keeps my spirits up knowing Gracie is well cared for and loved during our separation.

James Williams

CASA Holiday Open House December 11

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/Prince George's County will hold a holiday open house where people can learn to help an abused or neglected child living in foster care. This event will take place Tuesday, December 11 from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at 4501 Forbes Boulevard, Suite 140, the Lanham MENTOR office.

Light hors d'oeuvres will be served as CASA highlights 2007 accomplishments, goals for 2008 and ways people can help.

For more information visit www.pgcasa.org or call the CASA office at 301-209-0491.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; James Giese, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Thomas X. White, secretary; Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell and Pat Davis.

DEADLINES: Letters, articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

OLD GREENBELT THEATRE WEEK OF DEC.7 NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R)

Friday
*5, 7:30, 9:50

Saturday
*2:30, *5, 7:30, 9:50

Sunday
*2:30, *5, 7:30

Monday - Thursday
*5, 7:30

*These shows at \$6.00
301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745
129 Centerway
www.pgtheatres.com

Send Your Holiday Greetings Far and Wide!!

Each year, the News Review publishes
Holiday Greetings from area residents.
Greetings are scheduled to be printed in the
December 20 issue of the newspaper.

The deadline for submitting is
Monday, December 17 at 10 p.m.

To place your own message,
contact the Ad Desk at
301-474-4131 for more details

Memorial Service

Donald H. Cooper

Greenbelt pioneer Donald H. Cooper, 96, died November 24, 2007, at the Hospice House in Charlottesville, Va.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at the Colonnades in Charlottesville.

Friends may send condolences to the family at www.hillandwood.com.

Board of Education Begins TV Program

The first of the Prince George's County Board of Education's monthly television programs will be aired Saturday and Sunday December 8 and 9 at 11 a.m. "Your Board at Work" is intended to keep students, parents and the community informed of important education policies and activities that support student achievement. Student board member Haywood Perry, III, a senior at Oxon Hill High School, will host the program which may be seen on Channel 96 on Comcast Cable television and Channel 38 on Verizon.

Choirs Present Holiday Music

On Saturday, December 8 at 4 p.m. a holiday family concert will be presented at the Riverdale Presbyterian Church, 6513 Queens Chapel Road in University Park. "Christmas For Kids – Of All Ages" will include a showcase of area talent, including the College Park Youth Choir, the Concordia Middle School Choir and others, singing many holiday favorites.

There is no charge; a free-will offering will be held.

For details call 301-927-0477.

NARFE Holds Luncheon Dec. 12

The next meeting of NARFE Chapter 1122 will be a luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m. on December 12 at the 94th Aero Squadron restaurant in College Park.

Call 301-345-7437 for information and reservations.



Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building

Baha'i Faith

"God grant that the people of the world may be graciously aided to preserve the light of His loving counsels within the globe of wisdom. We cherish the hope that everyone may be adorned with the vesture of true wisdom, the basis of the government of the world."

— Bahá'u'lláh

Greenbelt Baha'i Community
P.O. Box 245
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-345-2918 301-220-3160
www.bci.org/greenbeltbahai www.bahai.us

Palestinian Perspective at Paint Branch

To help increase American understanding of the urgency for a peace settlement between the Israelis and Palestinians, Daoud Nassar – a Palestinian farmer from near Bethlehem in the West Bank – will speak at the Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church on Saturday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m. as part of his speaking tour in the D.C. area. The 100-acre Nassar family farm and vineyard was purchased in the 1920s and today is surrounded by Israeli settlements. Committed to non-violence and determined to keep their land from annexation, the family has taken their land rights to the Israeli Supreme Court.

This presentation is sponsored by the Social Action

Committee of Paint Branch Church in hopes of furthering understanding of the urgency for resolving this 40-year-old conflict and of bringing a just peace to both Israelis and Palestinians. Because Palestinians dedicated to non-violence are so seldom covered in the American media, this presentation has a special and important message. There will be time for questions and discussion with Nassar, refreshments will be served both before and following the presentation.

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 3215 Powder Mill Road in Adelphi. Tel: 301-937-3666. Driving directions are on the church website at www.pbuuc.org.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open heart, Open minds, Open doors
www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410
Rev. Dr. Paul C. Kim, Pastor



Sunday School 9:45 am **Worship Service 11:00 am**
Prayer Meeting Sun. 9:45 am
Come as you are!



Greenbelt Baptist Church

101 Greenhill Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770 – (301) 474-4212
www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Welcome!


Sunday	9:45 am	Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 am	Worship Service
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

ALL are Welcome!

"Helping People Connect with Christ and His Family Through Loving Service"

ST. HUGH OF GRENoble CATHOLIC CHURCH

135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322



Mass Schedule:
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe
Pastoral Associate: Rev. R. Scott Hurd



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111

Sunday 8:15 am	Worship Service
9:15 am	Sunday School/Bible Study
10:30 am	Worship Service



Fax 301-220-0694 • E-mail myholycross@verizon.net



Learn About Islam

GIVE THANKS

Every breath that we breathe is a blessing from God and we learn from the Prophet Solomon (peace be upon him) to recognize these blessings each day. The Holy Qur'an tells us how he never forgot to be thankful to God. He is quoted to have said, "This is by the grace of my Lord, to test me whether I am grateful or ungrateful! And if any is grateful, it is (a gain) for his own soul; but if any is ungrateful, truly my Lord is free of all needs, supreme in honor."

— The Holy Qur'an, 27:40

Count your blessings every day. For more information about gratefulness from an Islamic perspective, call 301-982-9463 or email info@searchislam.org or visit www.searchislam.org.

Combined Choir Holds Christmas Concert

The Greenbelt Combined Choir will hold its Christmas concert at Greenbelt Community Church at Crescent and Hillside Roads on Sunday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Under the direction of Jean Cook and Chris Fominaya, accompanied by Susan Breon, members from many churches form the Combined Choir to present classic and contemporary Christmas music. The concert will include selections arranged by Robert Shaw and Randall Thompson. Soloists are Jenna Koept, Chris Fominaya, Liisa and Mark Granfors-Hunt and Carol Price. All are invited to share in this musical holiday experience. There is no admission charge.


Girl Scouts Collect Hats for Children

Junior Girl Scout Troop 4816 is collecting new or home-made hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for needy children. The troop has placed a collection box in the Aquatic & Fitness Center lobby.

— Monica Venzke

Guameri Quartet Holds Public Rehearsal

On Monday, December 10 at 5 p.m. the Guameri String Quartet will hold a free open rehearsal. Now in its 26th year in residence at the School of Music, this legendary quartet continues its popular tradition of on-campus public rehearsals in Gildenhorn Recital Hall of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center.




Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church


3215 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville/Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

December 9, 10 a.m.
"What Gift Will You Give?"
by Barbara W. ten Hove, co-minister with Marilyn Pearl, worship associate

— Barbara W. and Jaco B. ten Hove, co-ministers





St. George's Episcopal/Anglican Church

7010 Glenn Dale Road
(Lanham-Severn Road & Glenn Dale Road)
301-262-3285 | rector@stgeo.org | www.stgeo.org

Sundays:	8:00 am	Simple, quiet Mass
	9:00 am	Christian education for all ages
	10:00 am	Sung Mass with organ and folk music, ASL interpreted
	1:30 pm	Signed Mass (last Sunday of each month only)
Wednesdays:	7:00 pm	Simple, quiet Mass

An inclusive congregation!



Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hillside & Crescent Roads
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbelt.com/gccucc/
Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m.
Daniel Hamlin, Pastor

"A church of the open mind, the warm heart, the aspiring soul, and the social vision..."




Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Jonathan Cohen Cantor Phil Greenfield

Friday evening services 8:00 PM
except first Friday of the month, when children's service begins at 7:30 PM
Saturday morning services - 9:30 AM
Children's Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.

For further information call 301 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Conservative and Reconstructionist



Hope Fellowship

... living life together

Bible Study & Worship

9:30 "Good Morning!!" Coffee and Snacks
10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Worship

Greenbelt Youth Center 99 Centerway
(Behind the Community Center)

Dec. 9: An Intimate Moment with Mary & Joseph

Pastor Lou Redd
301-474-4499 410-340-8242 (cell)
...living life together



Greenbelters were saddened to learn of the death of Greenbelt pioneer Donald H. Cooper, who served Greenbelt Consumer Services from 1937 to 1946, wrote the history of the Greenbelt Co-operative and was the first editor of this paper.

Congratulations to

– News Review staffer, grandmother Barbara Likowski (and Aunt Betsy) on the arrival of new granddaughter Julia Maria Teresa, who joins mom and dad Cindy and Alex and brother Kevin in Annapolis.



– former Greenbelter Della Domchick, who celebrated her 90th birthday on November 15 with a family party at her home in Bryantown, Md. Attending were daughter Margaret Barton and husband Bob along with Della’s friend Cecelia Barton, son Hal Domchick and wife Nancy and grandson James of Greenbelt and daughter Judy Hall and husband Alvin of Bryantown. Also attending were granddaughters Karen Curtin and Joanne Brown and great-grandchildren Sam and Jack Curtin and Hannah; David and Ben Brown. In addition to her birthday, Harold and Della celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary on November 27. They were married in Freeland, Penna. The Domchicks send “hellos!” to all their friends in Greenbelt.

Send us your reports of new babies, awards, honors, etc. to share with our readers. We’d especially like to hear more from our neighbors in Greenbelt East and Springhill Lake. To send information for “Our Neighbors” email us at newsreview@greenbelt.com or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

– Kathleen McFarland

Water Main Break Shuts Comm. Center

City employee Steven Parks discovered water bubbling out of Centerway near the Municipal Building about 5:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 4. He was on his way to work at the Aquatic and Fitness Center.

By 5 p.m. that day WSSC workmen had fixed the leak, but the “saddle” joint that connects the 2 inch pipe to the building had burst again. The men were waiting the arrival of a replacement piece. They assured those concerned that fixing the leak shouldn’t take long once the part arrived.

By 8 p.m. the repair was complete and the big truck left. The men would return Wednesday to clean up. This water main was laid in 1961, in time for the construction of the Municipal Building, the Public Works Department believes.

All day there was intermittent, sometimes brown water in the Community Center. Thus, there were no usable restrooms or drinking water available in the Municipal Building, the Community Center or the Greenbelt Library. By 4 p.m. the decision was made to close the Community Center and cancel all remaining classes and activities. The News Review remained open to the public through its side door.



City Information

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL

December 10, 2007– 8:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting-Municipal Building

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

Bill of Rights Day/Human Rights Day-Proclamation

Petitions and Requests (Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.)

***Committee Reports**

Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Report (2007 Open Forum)

LEGISLATION

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 19, “Taxation,” of the Greenbelt City Code in Order to Revise Article I, “In General,” for the Purpose of Updating the Article and Establishing a City Homeowner’s Property Tax Credit Program Indexed to the State of Maryland’s Homeowners’ Property Tax Credit Program (2nd Reading, Adoption)

OTHER BUSINESS

- Community Relations Advisory Board/Public Safety Advisory Committee Joint Report on Public Safety in the Vicinity of Spellman Overpass

- Award of Purchase - Police Cars

- Award of Purchase - Classification/Compensation Study

- Appointment of Councilmembers to Boards and Committees

* New Deal Cafe - Deferral of Rent Payment

*Resignation from Advisory Group

* Items on the Consent Agenda, indicated by an asterisk, will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.

NOTE: This is a preliminary agenda, subject to change. Regular Council meetings are open to the public, and all interested citizens are invited to attend. If special accommodations are required for any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 no later than 10am on the meeting day. Deaf individuals are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 or e-mail kgallagher@greenbeltmd.gov to reach the City Clerk.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council advisory groups.

Vacancies exist on the:

Advisory Planning Board

Arts Advisory Board

Forest Preserve Advisory Board

Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee

Youth Advisory Committee

For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD

At its May 29 Regular Meeting, the City Council adopted changes to the Forest Preserve article of the City Code and approved the formation of a standing Forest Preserve Advisory Board. Residents interested in serving on the new board may call 301-474-8000 for a application form and booklet or find the form and information on the City Web site under “Boards and Committees.”

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY



Congratulations to the following winners of the Recycle Right “Win With Your Bin” contest:

Darlene and Corey Squibb	1 Greenknolls Place
Vicki and Cara van Duyl	65-J Ridge Road
Jose Tillard and Gisela Bardossy	9-A Southway
Francis Carnovale and Victoria Noyes	7903 Kara Court
Robert and Priscilla Fearington	7202 Mandan Road

Awards were presented by City Council and members of the Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee at the Council Meeting on November 26th.

Part of the AMERICA RECYCLES DAY Celebration.

Sponsored by the City of Greenbelt and the Metropolitan Council of Governments.

**FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS EVENTS FOR
DECEMBER 9-15**

Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, 12/9, 5:30pm—7:30pm

Greenbelt Community Church, 1 Hillside

\$8—Adults \$4—Children under 12

Enjoy a meal of spaghetti with a choice of meat/ meatless sauce, tossed salad, Italian bread & a beverage. *Hosted by: the Greenbelt Community Church*

Greenbelt Combined Choir Holiday Concert

Sunday, 12/9 beginning at 7:30pm

Greenbelt Community Church, 1 Hillside

Open to all ages/FREE

Under the direction of Jean Cook and Chris Fominaya members of many churches and the community form the Combined Choir to perform traditional and contemporary Christmas music.

Hosted by: Greenbelt Community Church

Greenbelt East Tree Lighting

Sunday 12/9, 7:00pm

Greenbriar Community Building

Open to all ages / FREE

Enjoy carols and hot chocolate as Greenbriar’s tree is lit. Information: 301.441.1096

North Pole Calling

Tue., 12/11 through Thu., 12/13

6:00pm to 7:30pm

Preschool through Grade 2 / FREE

Santa and his helpers will make a special phone call to your home to chat with your child! To be contacted by Santa, complete and return the registration flier available at the Youth Center and online at www.greenbeltmd.gov

Hosted by: The Greenbelt Recreation Department

Santa’s Visit

Saturday 12/15, from 10am to 12pm

Youth Center

Preschool and up / FREE

Santa has fit a visit to Greenbelt into his busy holiday schedule! All children will receive a Polaroid picture with Santa and if you bring a DVD disc you can have your visit professionally recorded.

Hosted by: The Greenbelt Recreation Department.

HOWL-I-DAY BONE-NANZA

Sunday, December 9 12-4pm

Greenbelt Community Center Room 202

Artistic gifts for YOU AND your pets!

Come meet Adorable Adoptable Pets and Santa!



Drop off donations for the Greenbelt Animal Shelter. Cat litter, Dry and Canned Cat Food, Dry Dog Food, Bleach and Detergent needed!

ENJOY REFRESHMENTS AND HOLIDAY SHOPPING!

Proceeds benefit the Greenbelt Animal Shelter and the Maryland Collie Rescue
Info: 301-345-0452.

JOIN US FOR

BILL PHELAN’S

SEND-OFF TO MEXICO!

Join Bill’s coworkers, neighbors and friends at

Chevy’s Restaurant

7511 Greenbelt Road

Wednesday, December 19th,

4pm-8pm

Appetizers & non-alcoholic beverages provided
NO SPEECHES – Just come and wish Bill well.

Contact Cindy Murray at 301-542-2153 or Carolyn Clemens 301-542-2152 for further information.

Greenbelt Municipal/Public Access Channel 71

MUNICIPAL ACCESS: 301-474-8000: Monday, December 10 at 8pm: Regular City Council Meeting (live) Tuesday & Thursday, December 11 & 13: 10am & 6pm “Ask the Expert – Reverse Mortgages,” 7:00pm: “Alexandria Kleztet,” 8:00pm Replay of Council Meeting of 12/10

PUBLIC ACCESS(GATE): 301-507-6581: Wednesday & Friday, December 12 and 14: 7pm “Ebony Scrooge,” 8pm “Saving US Saints”

BABYSITTER NEEDED FOR FIT N FUN AEROBICS

Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays: 9:30-11:00a.m.

Greenbelt Community Center. Must be at least 18.

Please contact Rebekah Sutfin or Di Quynn Reno at 301-397-2200

COUNCIL continued from page 1

eligible neighborhood in the city, the staff proposed that this be made available to all Greenbelt residents who meet CDBG income requirements. While this proposal is not a traditional CDBG type of project, staff believes it could break new ground in setting social service direction.

The council unanimously approved the staff recommendations.

Legislative Priorities

Next Moran discussed the proposed city legislative program for 2008. Four priorities are proposed for state legislative action. The first city priority is state funding for dredging Greenbelt Lake. Staff also proposed state public safety funding to upgrade county emergency radios. It proposed recommending again last year’s proposal to prohibit the transfer of liquor licenses to gas stations. The last proposal is for the state to require financial reporting for groups or individuals circulating petitions.

Staff also recommended four county legislative priorities: reestablishing the county Landlord-Tenant Commission; increasing Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission funding to support Greenbelt recreational programs; funding support for a new Greenbelt Fire Station and legislation enabling new planning authority for Greenbelt.

Moran requested that council limit its legislative requests to a small number of proposals for presentation to the city’s county and state representatives. Council agreed with the recommendations. Staff will prepare a legislative

program booklet describing the initiatives in detail with appropriate background information for council use when it meets with county and state representatives on December 18.

A final legislative-related item was placed on the agenda at the request of Roberts concerning a special bill introduced last year at the request of the owners of the Hanover Apartments on Hanover Parkway in Greenbelt East. Council had learned last year that a bill, CB-38, had been introduced by District 4 Councilmember Ingrid Turner to obviate the need for the property owners to obtain a zoning special exception in order to develop a portion of the property for senior housing.

Earlier there had been discussions among council and the owners’ representatives on their overall redevelopment/renovation project but not all of the issues raised by council had been resolved. When council learned about the introduction of CB-38, it contacted Turner and her staff and the bill was tabled.

Roberts requested council support for a request to Turner that the bill be withdrawn. Davis and other councilmembers understood Roberts’ objections to the process but felt that the contact with Turner’s office had indeed put the bill “in limbo.” The next step would be for council to reinstitute negotiations with the developer and undertake a good faith effort to sit down and discuss all of the relevant issues. Larry Taub, representing the Hanover Apartments’ owners, supported such a renewed effort.

LONG continued from page 1

teachers and were not particularly enthusiastic about her arrival. With this in mind Long knew it was important that she establish rapport that earned the students’ respect as well as created an atmosphere that was comfortable and welcoming.

Although she was successful, the first year proved to be as overwhelming and stressful as she had anticipated (with planning and preparing lessons and materials); however, it was rewarding enough for her to return. Long attributes her success to her organizational skills. “Everything I do has an organizational system,” she says, from planning lessons to recording grades and data.

She comments on the gratification of seeing the excitement of the students retaining what they have learned and starting fresh every day. According to Long, there are days when you may have an incident with a student or a lesson doesn’t go as planned but “you must let it go and start fresh the next day.”

The teaching doesn’t stop here.

Long, who is currently pursuing a degree in special education, says having an opportunity to work at the Children’s Developmental Clinic at the University of Maryland and having been introduced to an amazingly supportive and helpful Special Education Coordinator, Chris Wichtendal at Springhill Lake Elementary, has further sparked her interest in the Special Education field.

Between lesson planning and making preparations for obtaining her degree, she finds there isn’t much room for other activities. However, most days on her way home she stops at the Co-op supermarket. “There is always something I need and I just love that grocery store,” she says.

Long also enjoys biking around Buddy Attic park, walking the paths throughout the community and spending time with friends playing outdoor games such as frisbee and bocci ball.

Destiny meets passion: Long will complete her master’s degree in special education next May.

CLAY continued from page 1

of burnout. “But I would never teach any other population of kids.” Clay says the paperwork is overwhelming at times. Not only do you have the general education curriculum and its demands but you also have paperwork associated with that of special education, adding that many times you must complete your paperwork at home.

The most rewarding aspect of the job, however, is seeing students accomplish a task. Students are sometimes given expectations parallel to those of students without disabilities; therefore, accomplishing a task set before them brings much satisfaction. Overall, the good outweighs the bad, Clay says. Although she finds challenges with students who have more than just a learning disability and with the paperwork and current testing procedures, she enjoys the benefits of being a teacher – the sense of accomplishment in the students, the days off, the summer breaks and early hours.

Clay, who joined the Springhill Lake Elementary team in 1994, may retire in eight years but will continue working in the field as a paraprofessional or classroom aide. This will allow her to assist the students without the demands of being an actual teacher – that pesky paperwork.

Outside the classroom, Clay teaches children’s church at the Rainbow Family Christian Center, where she has taught for 18 years.

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- Uneven or unhealthy gums

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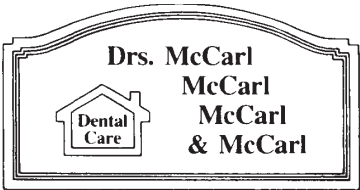


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Pillsbury Ready to Bake Cookies or Brownies Assorted 16.5 oz.	\$2⁵⁰	New Yorker White American Cheese	\$5⁹⁹ _{lb.}	Stouffer's French Bread Pizza Assorted 10-12 oz.	\$2⁵⁰
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We Honor Most Prescription Plans• Medicare Billing• Courteous, Knowledgeable Staff• Free Home Delivery of Prescriptions Monday–Wednesday–Friday• Free Blood Pressure Tester• Durable Medical Equipment Sales & Rental	Sierra Nevada Pale Ale 6 pk.–12 oz.	\$7⁶⁹	
	Alice White Wines 750 ML	\$5⁹⁹	
	Santa Carolina Wines 1.5 Liter	\$6⁹⁹	DOUBLE COUPONS See Store for Details
	Heineken Beer 12 pk.–12 oz. cans	\$12⁹⁹	
	Nat'l Bohemian Beer 6 pk.–12 oz. cans	\$2⁹⁹	
	Beringer White Zinfandel Wine 1.5 Liter	\$9⁹⁹	

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16						

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Robberies

November 24, 7:12 p.m., 9300 block Edmonston Road, a food delivery person reported that he had just finished making a delivery and was walking back to his vehicle when he was approached by two men, one armed with a handgun. One of the men demanded the delivery person’s wallet and, after obtaining it, both men fled the scene on foot. The suspects are described as a black male 18 years of age, 5’8”, 150 pounds with black hair, wearing a black hooded jacket with a skeleton design and blue jeans; and a black male 18 years of age, 5’5”, 130 pounds with black hair, wearing a black top and blue jeans.

November 25, 1:17 a.m., 6200 block Breezewood Drive, a man reported that he was walking to an apartment building when he was approached by a man who had his hand in his pocket, implying he had a weapon. He demanded the victim’s wallet and cell phone. After obtaining the property he fled the scene along with a woman who had been nearby. The suspects are described as a black male 30 years of age, 5’8” with a medium build, wearing a brown jacket, a black knit hat and jeans; and a black female, wearing a black jacket and brown pants.

November 26, 1:52 a.m., 9100 Edmonston Terrace, a man reported that he was walking down a sidewalk when he observed a man running toward him. The man chased the victim to the area of Breezewood Court and Edmonston Terrace, where he forced the victim to the ground, punched him several times and cut him in the face with a box cutter type knife. He took the victim’s wallet, then fled the area on foot. The victim was transported by ambulance to a hospital for treatment. The suspect is described as a black male in his 40s, 6’ with a thin build, brown eyes, black hair and a beard, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and black pants.

November 26, 11:01 p.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, two residents reported that they were walking into their apartment when two men, who had walked into the apartment building behind them, produced handguns and pushed the residents into their apartment and onto the floor. A man punched one of the victims in the face and removed a wallet, a cell phone and money from his pockets. The men then fled the scene. The suspects are described as a black male 20 to 25 years of age, 5’9” with a thin build, black hair, brown eyes and a beard, wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt over a button down shirt and blue jeans; and a black male 20 to 25 years of age, 5’7” with a medium build, black hair and brown eyes, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans.

November 27, 10:45 a.m., 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive, a man reported that he was walking home from the Metro Station when he was pushed to the ground from behind by an unknown person. The person took a bag of clothing that the man had just purchased and fled the scene on foot. The suspect was described as wearing a dark jacket, dark shoes and blue jeans.

November 29, 5:16 a.m., 6200 block Springhill Drive, a man

reported that he was talking on a pay phone when he was approached by two men. One of the men asked him “what he had” and both men began pulling the victim by his jacket; he and one of the men then engaged in a fight. The suspect then produced what the man believed to be either a knife or a broken bottle and cut him on the thumb. Both suspects then fled the scene on foot. The victim was treated on the scene by ambulance personnel for a laceration.

Kidnappings

November 26, 9:25 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court, a man reported that he was walking to his vehicle when he was approached by one of two men. As he got into his vehicle, the man produced a handgun and demanded money. When he could only produce a bank card, the man, along with a second man, forced him into the back seat of his vehicle and drove him to the Bank of America at Beltway Plaza. The victim was ordered to make withdrawals from the ATM and then driven to the area of Cherrywood Lane and Breezewood Drive, where he was dropped off. The suspects fled the scene in the victim’s vehicle, a 2003 Volkswagen Passat 4-door, which was recovered the next day, abandoned in the parking lot of the Greenbelt Metro Station. The suspects are described as a black male 21 years of age, 5’8”, 150 to 160 pounds with black hair in shoulder length braids, wearing a black knit hat, a black jacket and black pants; and a black male 22 years of age, 5’9”, 180 to 200 pounds with a shaved head and a light complexion, wearing baggy black jeans, a black T-shirt and a black jacket.

November 30, 9 p.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, a man reported that he had parked his vehicle and was walking down a sidewalk when he was approached on foot by three young men, two armed with handguns. The man was ordered into the backseat of his vehicle; the three young men got into his vehicle and drove away. The young men demanded the man’s credit/debit card and when he said that he left it at home, they drove him to his residence to retrieve it. The suspects then drove the man to several locations, withdrawing money from an ATM, purchasing food and buying marijuana. The suspects then drove the victim to the 8900 block of Edmonston Road and dropped him off. The victim’s vehicle, a 2005 Nissan Altima 4-door, was recovered abandoned several hours later in the 5700 block of Greenbelt Metro Drive. The suspects are described as a black male 17 to 20 years of age, 5’6”, 150 pounds with hair in braids, brown eyes, a goatee and a dark complexion, wearing a gray North Face coat with a green jacket underneath it; a black male 17 to 20 years of age, 6’, 160 pounds, wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt; and a black male 17

to 20 years of age, 150 to 160 pounds, wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt and a baseball cap.

Drug Arrests

November 27, 10:18 a.m., Greenbelt Middle School, a resident youth was arrested for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and possession of paraphernalia after he was observed by a school administrator attempting to conduct what appeared to be a drug transaction inside the school. The youth fled the area upon seeing the administrator. The administrator recognized him and he was later located in class. The youth was removed from class and was found to be in possession of paraphernalia commonly used to store marijuana. He also took the administrator to where he had hidden the suspected marijuana. The youth was released to a parent pending action by the Board of Education and the juvenile justice system.

November 27, 3:36 p.m., 7800 block Mandan Road, a nonresident youth was arrested for possession of paraphernalia. A resident youth was arrested for possession of paraphernalia, theft and malicious destruction. Police responded to a report of youths smoking marijuana. The nonresident was observed holding paraphernalia commonly used to smoke marijuana; additional paraphernalia was located on the ground at the feet of the resident. Both youths were released to parents pending action by the juvenile justice system. The resident youth was also identified as the same person who took an officer’s cell phone and destroyed it as the officer broke up a fight on October 9 in the 7700 block of Hanover Parkway.

Theft Arrests

November 27, 6000 block Breezewood Drive, a resident man was arrested and charged with vehicle theft and theft after police stopped a vehicle for an equipment violation. Investigation revealed that the vehicle, a 1997 Dodge Neon 4-door, had

been stolen from the 6100 block Breezewood Drive. The suspect was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

November 27, 7:42 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Drive, a resident man was arrested and charged with vehicle theft, theft, unauthorized use, malicious destruction, assault, resisting arrest, hit and run, reckless driving and other traffic offenses. Police attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation. Instead of stopping, the driver began driving in a reckless manner, putting other motorists and pedestrians in danger. The officer terminated his stop of the vehicle and a short time later another officer observed the same vehicle leave the roadway and strike a traffic sign and shrubbery in the 6100 block of Breezewood Drive. The driver exited the vehicle and fled the scene on foot toward Beltway Plaza. The man was apprehended after a foot chase and had to be forcibly taken into custody after resisting attempts to place him under arrest. A computer check revealed that the vehicle he was driving, a 2000 Honda Civic 2-door, had been reported stolen. The man was transported to the police department, where he resisted attempts by ambulance personnel to treat him for minor injuries and attempted to assault an officer. The suspect was transported to a hospital for further treatment and then to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

Vandalism

November 20, 7:44 p.m., 9000 block Breezewood Terrace, it was reported that unknown person(s) used unknown means to break out a window of an apartment building.

November 24, 5:41 p.m., 6200 block Breezewood Court, it was reported that unknown person(s) used what appeared to be a pellet-type gun to vandalize three windows.

November 27, 3:28 a.m., 9100 block Edmonston Road, it was

reported that unknown person(s) threw a rock at a bedroom window of a residence, shattering it.

November 27, 10:52 p.m., 7700 block Hanover Parkway, it was reported that unknown person(s) used unknown means to break out a bedroom window of a residence.

Burglaries

November 26, 9:56 p.m., 9300 block Edmonston Road, it was reported that unknown person(s) used unknown means to enter a residence. A television, stereo equipment, a video game player, cash and several pairs of sneakers were among the items taken.

November 28, 8:10 p.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Lane, it was reported that unknown person(s) used unknown means to enter a residence. A laptop computer, a video game player, video games, DVDs and a camera were among the items taken.

Vehicle Crimes

The following vehicles were reported stolen: a 2000 Plymouth Voyager and a 2000 Dodge Intrepid from the 9000 block Breezewood Terrace; a 2000 Dodge Stratus 4-door from the 6200 block Breezewood Court; a gold 1995 Jeep Cherokee, Maryland tags 927M945 from the 9100 block Springhill Lane; a 1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee from the 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace; and a 1996 Jeep Cherokee from the 6100 block Breezewood Drive.

Seven vehicles were recovered, two by Greenbelt police, one by the owner of the vehicle and four by outside police departments. No arrests were reported. One of the recovered vehicles was found in Calvert County by Maryland State police. It had been used in a felony theft and was then involved in a traffic collision, resulting in the death of one of the occupants and life threatening injuries to the other two occupants.

Vandalism to, theft from and attempted theft of vehicles were reported in the following areas: Beltway Plaza (two incidents), 6100 block Breezewood Court, 6100 block Breezewood Drive, 9100 block Breezewood Terrace, 6000 block Cherrywood Court, 9100 block Edmonston Road, 6200 block Springhill Drive, 9100 block Springhill Lane, 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive, Gardenway and Crescent Road and 7800 block Mandan Road.

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Council Considers Homeowners Tax Credit

by Thomas X. White

In a follow-up action from the prior council, the newly installed Greenbelt City Council introduced an ordinance for first reading at its regular meeting on November 26 to establish a City Homeowners Property Tax Credit Program. Council must first adopt an ordinance amending the taxation chapter of the city code and then provide formal notification of the city’s intentions as required by the state.

The proposed ordinance would be based on the existing Maryland state program. It would provide a credit equal to 25 percent of the amount of the state credit earned by Greenbelt homeowners.

The property tax credit program is based on the combined gross household income before deductions. For incomes below \$8,000 there would be no property tax. For incomes over \$8,000 and up to a maximum of \$60,000, there is an increasing property tax limit that qualifying homeowners would be required to pay.

For homeowners with a combined income of \$30,000, the property tax limit under the state program would be \$1,680. For those with a combined income of \$60,000, the tax limit would max out at \$4,380.

If the city program is enacted, eligible Greenbelt homeowners would get 25 percent of their state limit. Although several county governments also offer a supplemental tax credit to their homeowners, Prince George’s County does not.

The credit is limited to the first \$300,000 of assessed value. Thus an eligible homeowner whose home is assessed at \$450,000 would receive a tax credit based upon only the first \$300,000 of the assessment. The remaining \$150,000 would be subject to the full real estate tax rate in effect for the jurisdiction in which they live.

The program is clearly designed to provide a property tax credit only to homeowners in greatest need. There are four basic legal requirements for eligibility.

1. The dwelling for which application is made must be the principal residence, where the taxpayer resides for more than six months of the tax year, including July 1 of the year unless the taxpayer is unable to do so for reasons of

illness or the need of special care or unless the home was just purchased. The credit may only be claimed for one residence.

2. The taxpayer must have legal interest in the property. Holders of a life estate and beneficiaries of certain trusts have sufficient legal interest.

3. The net worth, excluding the value of the property for which a credit is being claimed and the cash value of IRAs or qualified retirement savings plans, must not exceed \$200,000 as of December 31, 2006.

4. The combined gross household income cannot exceed \$60,000.

In a memorandum prepared for council last year when the proposal was first discussed, City Treasurer Jeff Williams outlined several existing types of tax credits that are available to Maryland residents.

Homestead Credit

The Maryland Homestead credit limits assessment increases to a maximum of 10 percent annually with the actual limit set by the jurisdiction. Greenbelt is at 10 percent and Prince George’s County is three percent. This credit is managed by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) through its Real Estate Tax Division and occurs automatically without any action required by the property owner. Credits are calculated by the SDAT before assessment information is forwarded to local governments in Maryland and are shown on the property owner’s tax bill.

Homeowners

This is the property tax credit program discussed above, upon which the city’s proposed credit would be based (at a 25 percent level). The program has existed since 1975 and was commonly referred to as the “circuit breaker” plan for the elderly. It has been improved through the years and now covers all Maryland homeowners regardless of age. In the current fiscal year (FY08) the state issued 43 refunds totaling \$72,704 (an average of \$1,691 per homeowner), not including GHI residents. An additional 35 members of GHI will receive a credit totaling \$16,020 (an average of \$458 per homeowner). Total credits in the city are currently \$88,724. Greenbelt is held harmless with these credits. The individual homeowners receive their

credit directly from the state.

Disabled Veterans

The State of Maryland offers a 100 percent tax credit to disabled American veterans (DAV).

This credit is applied from the state and must be honored by all Maryland local governments. Currently the city has only one resident receiving this state benefit.

Disabled Residents

In addition to the state mandated program for DAV, in 1967 the city established a program for Greenbelt residents with disabilities. This program then referenced the provisions of a similar program administered by Prince George’s County. Later, the city took steps toward establishing its own guidelines and in 1972 and 1975 expanded the guidelines in terms of allowed income and assessed valuation limits where applicants income could not exceed \$7,500 and the tax credit was increased to the first \$7,000 of assessed value multiplied by the applicable tax rate. Homeowners over 60 cannot apply for this credit.

Also, based on Williams memo, the staff has researched the practices of other municipalities who have instituted real estate property tax credit programs. The city of Takoma Park offers its residents a program that provides 50 percent of the state credit but the resident must apply directly to the city for the credit. The City of Rockville’s program is tied directly to the state program and their residents do not have to complete an additional application with the city to be eligible for the Rockville credit program.

Williams’ memo concludes with the recommendation that Greenbelt use the same approach as Rockville. Such an approach, if the council enacts the proposed ordinance, would result in the city contacting the state and working toward having a Greenbelt program that would be included with the state tax credit in Fiscal Year 2009 (beginning July 1, 2008). There was no indication at the November 26 meeting when the second reading for the proposed ordinance would occur or if council would discuss the program at a worksession. However, the council normally considers and introduces for second reading and final passage at its next regular meeting, which would be December 10.

BEAUCHAMP continued from page 1

go to school. Today the American International School of Lagos, Nigeria, is well-known in that country and thriving with a current enrollment of more than 600 students from elementary through high school. So she pre-dates Oprah Winfrey as a media phenomenon who founded a school in Africa and Beauchamp’s school so far has had a bigger impact.

Beauchamp continued writing while in Nigeria, becoming a prolific contributor of articles to the Encyclopedia Britannica’s edition for school-age children. And no doubt, if one went back in the News Review’s “morgue” of old articles, some sent from Nigeria might show up to fill in the two-year gap and make it an official continuous 50 years. But a 50-year anniversary it is, nonetheless.

Beauchamp had just received her doctorate in English from the University of Chicago when she moved to Greenbelt. Her doctoral dissertation was on five plays, all on the story of Antony and Cleopatra and all written contemporaneously with Shakespeare’s own in the period from 1592 to 1678. One of the plays was translated by a woman – the Countess of Pembroke. The new Dr. Virginia Beauchamp was offered a teaching position at the University of Maryland’s English Department where she specialized in Shakespeare and also taught writing courses. Her News Review work continued simultaneously while she managed to teach fulltime.

Women’s Studies

In the 1970s she was invited to serve on an exploratory committee that sought to increase the study of women and women’s contributions in various disciplines at the university and thus began the Women’s Studies Department, where she served as the first coordinator of courses. That department paved the way for the formation at the university of several other subject areas addressing issues of diversity, including the

Asian studies department and also one on lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender studies.

Beauchamp served on numerous committees addressing campus life for faculty and students which led to a daycare center at the university, raised awareness of safety for women on campus and even addressed women’s health issues.

She served on another committee which organized the first conference at an NCAA school to explore the implementation of Title IX, which required equal access for women in sports. This work led to funding women’s sports scholarships and programs.

After she retired from the university at age 70 she was asked to serve as special assistant to then-president William Kirwan on women’s issues. He introduced her when she was inducted into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame in 2003 for her many contributions. She hasn’t slowed down yet. She helped another committee organize a program for senior citizens to attend college courses at the university and just completed teaching a course for that program during the spring semester of 2007.

And with all that, she may be found every Tuesday afternoon, faithfully working on the Greenbelt News Review.

To help celebrate her anniversary this year and her many interests, a special event has been planned. Beauchamp will participate in a panel discussion immediately following the performance of “Love & War” at the Greenbelt Arts Center on the preview night, Thursday, December 6 and the official opening night, Friday, December 7. This new play focuses on women’s roles, concerns and relationships in Shakespeare’s plays and explores their relevance to contemporary concerns. A reception will follow. Reservations are encouraged at 301-441-8770.

Portrait photograph by Sharon Natoli.

Owens Science Center Has Winter Sky Show

On Saturday, December 8 the Planetarium Program at the Howard B. Owens Science Center will offer a “Susie’s Snowflake” program at 10:30 a.m. and again at 12:30 p.m. The program will again be offered on Friday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:15).

“Susie’s Snowflake” is an introduction to the easily recognized constellations in the winter sky. Susie is a young girl learning to study science using her five senses. Through exploration and examination, she learns that snowflakes have six points. She also recognizes six bright stars in the night sky that she uses to make a snowflake. A tour of the current night sky will follow the presentations. There is a fee with a reduction for students and seniors.

For more information call 301-918-8750 during school hours.

Kids Bring Winter In by Candlelight

On Sunday, December 9 from 3 to 5 p.m. children and parents are invited to join in an ancient celebration of bringing in winter with light at the Old Parish House. Joan Almon, a former Waldorf kindergarten teacher and director of the Alliance for Childhood will lead children in a walk through a spiral of winter greenery by candlelight. They will learn about the star in the apple after a puppet show based on an old European folktale.

This free event is ideal for ages 3 and up. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is suggested for this popular event – register by calling 301-927-3013 or emailing info@cpae.org.

The Old Parish House is at 4711 Knox Road (corner of Knox Road and Dartmouth Avenue) in College Park.

Oxon Hill Farm Has Holiday Festival

The National Park Service will host a Cultural Holiday Festival at Oxon Hill Farm located in Oxon Cove Park on Sunday, December 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The festival will feature living history interpretations representing African, Native American and European cultures that influenced the history of the area. Oxon Hill Farm was known as Mt. Welby during the early part of the 19th century. Interpreters will demonstrate how each culture celebrated the holiday season.

At noon visitors can ride in a horse drawn wagon, participate in 19th century parlor games and cider pressing and listen to music and storytelling.

Oxon Hill Farm is located at 6411 Oxon Hill Road in Oxon Hill. For information call the farm directly at 301-839-1176 or visit the website at www.nps.gov/oxhi.

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These offers may not be combined with any other offers, and are valid through December, 2007.

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